





## THE PROVINCE OF CANADA—No. III.

**GOVERNMENT.**—The form of government is that of a limited monarchy, and in many phases a copy of that of the United Kingdom. The executive power is vested in a governor-general, appointed by the crown, assisted by an executive council, the members of which (who must also be members of the Legislature) receive their appointment from the governor-general, but hold office only so long as the council receives the support of the Legislature. The members of the council or ministry, ten in number, are also heads of departments. The Provincial Parliament consists of a Legislative Council of 44 members (who were formerly summoned by the crown, and held their seats for life) and a Legislative Assembly of 130 members—all now chosen by the people. The franchise is nearly universal; an assessed interest of £50 in lands and a £2 freehold being the real estate qualification of voters; and a rent of £7 10s. in cities and towns and £5 in rural constituencies being the rental qualification. The terms of procedure are identical with those of the Imperial Parliament. Bills passed by both houses must receive the assent of the crown before they acquire the force of law, and this the Governor is authorized to grant, or to reserve bills for the signification of the imperial government's pleasure thereon. The judiciary is also organized on the same principles as that of England. By recent enactments of the Imperial Parliament, the Canadian government has had conceded to it the Post-office, Revenue, and other departments, and, in fact, the government has become almost wholly independent of the Home authorities, except in name. The military protection of the Province is provided for by the Home government.

FINANCES, DEBT, ETC.—The following exhibits a statement of the net revenue and expenditures of the Consolidated Fund of the Province for the year 1852:

Expenditures.		Revenue.	
Interest on public debt	£215,442 14 3	Balance at credit of Consolidated Fund	£407,400 11 10½
Civil government	39,618 12 6	Less paid sinking fund, arrears, rebellion and invasion claims, etc.	234,905 15 10
Justice	86,785 16 11		
Penitentiary	6,000 0 0	True balance	£172,494 15 0½
Legislature	44,574 13 0	Net customs revenue	705,517 15 10
Education	58,593 13 0	Net excise	22,445 11 11
Agriculture	13,794 13 3	Net territorial	32,248 12 7
Hospitals, etc.	13,939 8 4	Bank imposts	19,859 2 10
Geological survey	1,965 11 2	Public works revenue	71,424 8 10
Militia	2,116 8 0	Militia fines, etc.	41 4 2
Light-houses	8,243 7 2	Fines and forfeitures, including seizures	2,785 6 11
Emigration	752 4 2	Canal revenue	22,481 7 10
Ventions.	10,624 5 10	Law fee fund	4,648 1 5
Indian annuities	7,735 0 0		
Census	18,549 13 8	Total currency	£1,053,026 2 4½
Sinking fund	73,000 0 0		
Miscellaneous	49,043 16 0		
	£351,125 2 4		
Balance at credit of Consolidated Fund	401,901 0 0½		

The following is a statement of the financial condition of the Province, 31st January, 1853:

	Dr.		Cr.				
Loans to incorp. companies.....	£38,939	2	8	Imperial guaranteed loan.....	£1,825,000	0	0
Provincial works.....	4,950,525	13	10½	Debentures (pay. in Lon.)....	1,946,236	17	3
Losses by public works, etc., ..	127,302	14	1	" " (pay. in Can.).....	834,511	6	8
Rebel. and inv. claims, C. E., ..	8,502	12	11	"in small deb. (" ) ..	395	0	0
Quebec loan.....	87,730	0	0				
Law Society.....	5,000	0	0				
Lunatic Asylum, G. S. ....	24,260	0	0				
" " C. W. ....	12,000	0	0	Redemption of public debt ..	£4,666,193	5	3
Normal Schools, C. W. ....	16,000	0	0	Provincial debentures .....	92,660	15	11½
Court-houses.....	30,451	8	0	Special funds .....	787,619	9	0
St. Law. and Atlan. R. R. Co. .	488,666	13	4	Consolidated fund.....	401,901	0	2½
Great Western R. R. Co. ....	248,383	6	8	Sinking fund .....	365,074	15	11
Special funds investments.....	649,181	17	61	St. Law. and Atlan. R. R. Co.	127,976	13	4
Sundries.....	1,172,958	3	¾	Montreal Har. debentures ..	48,666	13	4
				Sundries .....	87,819	2	1½

Total (currency).....£7,849,741 17 10½      Total (currency).....£7,849,741 17 10½

The outstanding debentures, representing the public debt of Canada, at the date above specified, are comprised in the following statement:

1st. Debentures issued under acts of Lower Canada, for the interest of which			
a. Government is responsible	£177,498	13	4
2d. Provincial debentures issued under various provincial acts	715,771	17	4
3d. Floating debentures issued under various provincial acts	3,771,286	19	7
Total amount of debentures.	\$4,664,555	5	3

- the whole payable (except £21,810, the date of the payment of which is not fixed) before the year 1882.

**EDUCATION.**—In Upper Canada, in 1853, there were 268,957 children of school age (between 5 and 16 years), and of these 194,736 or 72 per cent. had attended the common schools during the year. The total number of scholars at schools and colleges was 203,888. The following abstract exhibits the detail of all educational establishments in operation in the year referred to :

Classification.	Number of Establishments.	Scholars Registered.	Common Schools.
Colleges and universities .....	8.....	756	Teachers, 3,529—male 5,601, and female 938. Average attendance in summer, 99,096.
County grammar schools and acad. ....	70.....	8,839	—males 48,668, and females 41,424.
Private schools reported .....	174.....	8,822	“          —males 42,252, and females 37,407.
Normal and model schools .....	1.....	185	Average duration of scholars 2-3-20 months.
Common schools (1,052 free) .....	3,127.....	194,786	Teachers' salaries, \$150,020.
Total.....	3,301.....	208,883	Livied or subsisted for school-houses and for libraries and apparatus .....\$22,108

—the grand total of funds raised for educational purposes in Upper Canada amounted to £199,674 or \$798,696.

In Lower Canada the official returns for 1853 present the following results:

Classification.	Number of Establishments.	Scholars Registered.	Scholars.
Elementary schools . . . . .	2,114.	92,275	Learning alphabet . . . . . 55,351 Who read well . . . . . 2,367
Model schools . . . . .	67	8,524	Who write well . . . . . 20,072
Superior girls' schools . . . . .	53	3,041	Learning algebra and arithmetic . . . . . 15,331
A common school . . . . .	19	1,169	" geometry . . . . . 1,110
Classical colleges . . . . .	44	2,111	" history . . . . . 6,733
Convents . . . . .	44	2,786	" French grammar . . . . . 15,353
Independent schools . . . . .	85	4,923	" English . . . . . 7,066
			Who know parsing . . . . . 4,412
Total . . . . .	2,396	109,528	Teachers, 2,212—males 808, and females 1,404.

—the total amount of school moneys reported for the year 1853 was £68,897 or \$275,588. Of this sum £27,435 was the annual government grant, and the remainder contributions by the people.

Collectively in the Province the number of schools of all grades was 5,787 and of scholars 413,724.

**RELIGION.**—The general statistics of the several religious bodies of the Province are given on a former page. The following exposition simply deduces the relative proportions and localities of each:—Of the whole population—

One-half are "Roman Catholics," and of these the greater part are Lower or French Canadians, and the remainder for the most part Irish and their descendants.

One-seventh belong to the "Church of England," and of these five-sixths are found in Upper Canada.

One-eighth are "Methodists," and of these the "Wesleyans" form one-fifteenth of the population. Nine-tenths are in Upper Canada.

One-tenth are "Presbyterians," and of these one-seventh are in U. C.  
One-thirty-seventh are "Baptists" of which nine-tenths are in U. C.

The remainder of the population is divided among a large number of minor sects; among which the Protestants (unclassified), Lutherans, Congregationalists, Quakers, Mennonists, and Tunkers are the most extensive.

All denominations are equally protected by the law, none having privileges over others, and hence a marked tolerance and Christian feeling exists among them. The clergy as a body are hard-working and zealous; and many of them have attained high celebrity for their learning.

**CITIES, TOWNS, ETC.**—In UPPER CANADA the principal places are the cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, and Ottawa, and the towns of London, Belleville, St. Catharine's, Brantford, Coburg, Dundas, Niagara, etc.

*Toronto*, the capital of the Province, occupies a rather low site, on a beautiful and nearly circular bay, on the north shore of Lake Ontario, with which the bay communicates by a narrow entrance, and from which it is separated by a low, sandy belt, nearly five miles long. Lat.  $43^{\circ} 39'$  north, and long.  $79^{\circ} 21'$  west. The town, which is in the form of a parallelogram, is built with great regularity, and the streets are generally well paved, spacious, and lighted with gas. The houses are for the most part substantial, and in the principal thoroughfares have often an elegant appearance. Public buildings are numerous, among which may be specially named the Episcopal and Roman Catholic cathedrals, the City Hall, the Normal and Model schools, the Lunatic Asylum (about a mile from the city), and several of the churches. Besides the cathedrals already named, there are 21 other churches. Other important buildings and establishments are—the University and the Upper Canada and Trinity colleges, the Parliament House, the Government House, etc. Among the other educational establishments are—St. Michael's College (R. C.), Knox's College, the Congregational Institute, the United Presbyterian Divinity Hall, the Toronto Academy, and a county grammar school. The principal scientific and literary institutions are—the Observatory, the Canadian Institute, the Athenæum, and the Mechanics' Institute. There are also various hospitals and charitable establishments, markets, etc. Toronto has numerous manufactures, among which are foundries, tanneries, breweries, distilleries, furniture, starch, glue, soap, and candle factories, rope-walks and paper and flour mills. The harbor, which admits vessels of the largest size navigating the lakes, is remarkably well sheltered, and affords great facilities for its extensive trade. No town in Canada has advanced so rapidly as Toronto: it was founded in 1794, and at first made so little progress that its population in 1830 was only 2,860, but in 1842 it was ascertained to contain 15,336, and now probably contains 55,000 souls.

*Hamilton* is beautifully situated at the western extremity of Burlington Bay, near the shore of Lake Ontario. The construction of the Burlington and Des Jardins canals and the several railroads centering in the town have much promoted its prosperity. The streets are well laid out, and many of the houses are built of stone. It contains a court-house, town-hall, custom-house, theatre, news-room, mechanics' institute, and other public buildings, and places of worship for the principal sects. It is a place of great commercial importance, and has every prospect of becoming a great city. Steamboats ply regularly to and from the principal lake ports, and every facility is afforded for interior communication by railway and other good roads.

*Kingston* is advantageously situated at the commencement of the Rideau Canal and Cataragui River (here crossed by a bridge 600 yards long), and is important in a military as well as a commercial point of view, being the key of the central St. Lawrence, as Quebec is of the river's seaward extremity. In its neighborhood is Navy Bay, a narrow and deep inlet of Lake Ontario, which is the chief naval station on the lakes. The principal public buildings are the City Hall, containing also the postoffice and a market, the Presbyterian College, the Hospital, etc., and several handsome churches. Ship-building is carried on, and also several manufactures; and the place has considerable commerce. In the vicinity are several mineral springs.

*Ottawa City*, formerly Bytown, on the Ottawa, at the junction of the Rideau Canal with that river, 92 miles north-east of Kingston (lat. 45° 23' north, and long. 75° 38'), is divided into the upper and lower towns; the former the aristocratic and the latter the business portion of the city. It already contains several handsome public buildings, churches, etc., and the scenery in the neighborhood is, next to that of Niagara, the finest in Canada. The Chaudière Falls, a short distance above the city, are beautiful, and below these a handsome suspension bridge crosses the river. The city is supported principally by the lumber trade: it is connected with Prescott (opposite Ogdensburg) by railway, and a railway is being built to Montreal on the east side of the Ottawa.

London is finely situated at the junction of two branches of the Thames River. It is a thriving town with manufactures, and is the depôt of a wide and fertile country. *Belleville*, on the Bay of Quinté, is a place of considerable trade. *St. Catharine's*, on the Welland Canal, is also a trading town, and exports flour largely; and ship-building is carried on. Population 4,368. *Brantford*, on the left bank of Grand River, has extensive manufactures, and is one of the principal towns on the Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich Railway. A canal about two and a half miles long enables vessels of moderate draught to pass the falls of the river and reach the town. *Coburg*, on Lake Ontario, is a well-built town, and has several manufactures and a considerable trade. It is connected with Peterboro' by railway. Victoria College is located at this place. *Dundas* is a manufacturing town about five miles from Hamilton, and owes its prosperity to its possession of extensive water-power. In the immediate vicinity are splendid quarries of freestone and limestone, which are largely exported. *Niagara*, on the west bank of the river so called, at its mouth in Lake Ontario, is well built and has a brisk trade. The Harbor Company have extensive ship-yards at this place, and regular steamers ply to Toronto and other ports both of Canada and the United States. Under the name of Newark it was for a short period the capital of Upper Canada; and has long been famous for its cider. *Brackville*, on the St. Lawrence, 56 miles below Kingston, is a finely built town, and has manufactures and a thriving trade. The Grand Trunk Railway passes through it, and a railway is being built to the Ottawa at Pembroke.

Of the other towns of Upper Canada the principal are—Amherstburg, a garrison town on the Detroit River (pop. 1,880); Barrie, on Lake Simcoe, and on the line of the railway between Toronto and Collingwood (1,007); Chatham, on the left bank of the Thames (2,070); Cornwall, at the terminus of the Cornwall Canal on the St. Lawrence (1,646); Goderich, on Lake Huron, at the entrance of Maitland River, and the western terminus of the Buffalo, Brantford, and Goderich Railway: an expensive harbor has been constructed (1,329); Guelph, on the Toronto and Sarnia Railway (1,860); Perth, on the Tay, and connected with the Rideau Canal by a branch 11 miles long (1,916); Peterboro', on the Trent, and connected by railway with Coburg (2,191); Pictou, on the Bay of Quinté, a manufacturing and commercial town (1,569); Port Hope, on Lake Ontario, eight miles from Coburg, and also a commercial town (2,476); Prescott, on the St. Lawrence opposite Ogdensburg, New York, and connected with Ottawa City by railway (2,156); Sandwich, on Detroit River: Simcoe (1,452); Woodstock, a trading town (3,112), etc.

The principal villages are—Chippewa (1,193), Galt (2,248), Ingersoll (1,190), Oshawa (1,142), Paris (1,890), Preston (1,180), Richmond (434), St. Thomas (1,274), Thorold (1,091), etc. There are also a large number of villages of 200 to 500 inhabitants.

In LOWER CANADA the principal places are the cities of Montreal and Quebec, and the flourishing towns of Three-Rivers, St. Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, and Sorel.

*Montreal* is situated at the head of ship-navigation on the St. Lawrence, on the east side of the island of the same name, in lat.  $45^{\circ} 30'$  north, and long.  $73^{\circ} 35'$  west. The island, which is at the confluence of the Ottawa, is 32 miles long, and about 10 miles broad at its widest part, and gene-

ally level, and watered by numerous small streams. Behind the town however, there is a mountain of considerable elevation, and from this its name, "Montreal," or *Mount Royal*, is derived. The city contains several handsome streets, and the houses are generally built of a gray stone. The principal buildings are—the Government House, the Court House, the Ordnance Office, the banks, the General Hospital, and market houses—the Hôtel Dieu, a large conventual establishment; the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the finest ecclesiastical structure in British America; Montreal College and McGill College; the Royal Grammar School, etc. Seminaries, schools, public libraries, and public charitable institutions are numerous. A colossal statue of Nelson, on a Doric column, adorns one of the squares. Montreal has an increasing and valuable trade and several important manufactures. Its harbor, though not large, is very safe and convenient, and ships of 600 tons burden can receive and discharge their cargoes at the quays. Its communication with the river and lake ports is provided for by daily lines of steamers, and it is also a principal centre of railways. A railway connects Montreal with Lachine, a village seven miles west, where the up-river steamers lie, and nearly opposite Lachine the Montreal and New York and the Champlain and St. Lawrence railways extend into the United States, and connect with railways to Boston, New York, etc. The Grand Trunk Railway connects Montreal with Portland, in Maine, with Quebec, Toronto, etc., and a line is being built on the east side of the Ottawa, to facilitate the trade of that important region. With these facilities for intercommunication the city is rapidly rising in importance, and at present (1855) its population is estimated at 70,000.

*Quebec*, the most ancient city of Canada, is situated on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, 410 miles from the sea and 180 miles below Montreal, in lat.  $46^{\circ} 49' 6''$  north, and long.  $71^{\circ} 13' 45''$  west. The river is here about a mile wide. Quebec is built on a promontory near the confluence of the St. Charles, terminating abruptly in Cape Diamond, which has a height of 362 feet, and on the low banks below the rocks along the margin of both streams. It is divided into the upper and lower towns—the former, on the summit of the promontory, is strongly fortified, the citadel occupying the highest elevation, and the whole position is so strong by nature that it is justly deemed all but impregnable. On the same plain with the upper town, to the west, lies the suburb of St. John, and to the south-west are the Plains of Abraham. The lower town lies under the cliffs, along the St. Lawrence and St. Charles, and adjoining it on the west, on a flat on the latter stream, lies the suburb of St. Roche. The towns are connected by three gates, and two gates in addition lead out from the upper town toward the Plains of Abraham. The streets of the city are, as a whole, narrow, irregular, and frequently steep, excepting in the suburbs, which are modern, and built upon a more regular plan. The houses are principally of stone or brick, and their roofs, generally of a high pitch, impart a quaint and antique appearance to the city. The streets are lighted with gas, and water is brought to the city from Lake St. Charles. The lower town is the great seat of business: the banks of both rivers are lined with warehouses, and with wharves jutting about 200 feet out into the stream, along which the largest vessels can lie. The basin of the river immediately below the city affords excellent anchorage for large ships. The principal buildings, in respect of architecture, are the old Parliament House, the Roman Catholic and Protestant cathedrals, and the Scotch Free Church. Other important structures and institutions are the Hôtel Dieu nunnery and hospital, the Ursuline Convent, the French College or Roman Catholic Seminary, the General and Marine hospitals, the Exchange, Public Library, Museum of the Literary and Historical Society, and the Barracks, formerly the Jesuit College. On the Plains of Abraham a column 40 feet high has been erected to the memory of Wolfe, and in the upper town a handsome obelisk, on a granite pedestal 65 feet high, to the joint memory of Wolfe and Montcalm, who fell at the taking of the city. Quebec has several important manufactures, but is chiefly noted for its ship-building establishments, at which many large vessels are annually built and fitted out. It is the chief seat of the Canadian winter trade, and also of the timber trade. Quebec was founded in 1608 by Champlain, fortified in 1690, and remained in possession of the French till 1759, when it fell into the hands of the British in consequence of Wolfe's famous victory on the Plains of Abraham. The winter of Quebec is as severe as in the centre of Russia, and the summer as warm as in the south of Italy. The inhabitants are mostly of French descent; the French language is that generally spoken, and a large majority profess the Catholic religion. The city is connected with Montreal and the ports of the United States by the Grand Trunk Railway, and other lines are being built to connect it with Halifax on the east and the whole of Canada on the west.

*Three-Rivers* is situated at the confluence of the St. Maurice with the St. Lawrence, about half way between Quebec and Montreal, and is one of the depôts of the north-west traders, and is otherwise a place of considerable commercial importance. It has a brisk trade in pot and pearl ashes, and near by are iron mines, which will ultimately contribute to its prosperity. *St. Hyacinthe* is situated on the left bank of the Yamaska River, about 30 miles east by north from Montreal, and is the seat of a college. *Sherbrooke* is built at the junction of the Magog and St. Francis rivers, and has extensive water-power. *Sorel* or *William Henry*, at the confluence of the Richelieu, is likely from its advantageous situation to become a very important town. By the Chambly Canal there is a communication between Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence at Sorel, and there is also a railway on the same line of route. Besides these the following villages may be named, with the population of each in 1851—Chambly, 884; St. Louis, in Montreal County, 3,943; Frazierville, in Rimouski, 995; Huntingdon, in Beauharnois, 679; Lachine, in Montreal, 1,075; Longueuil, 1,496; St. Ours, in Richelieu, 542, and St. Theresa, in Terrebonne, 1,129.

ISTORY.—Canada is said to have been discovered by Sebastian Cabot in 1497; but the first settlement made by Europeans was in 1544, at St. Croix Harbor, by Jacques Cartier, a French navigator, who sailed up the St. Lawrence. In 1608 a permanent settlement was made upon the present site of Quebec, Canada being then called New France. From this period till 1759 the French continued to occupy the country, but in that year an English army under General Wolfe captured Quebec, and by September, 1760, all other places within the government were surrendered to the British. In 1774 a legislative council of 23 members was appointed to assist the governor. Seventeen years after, Canada was divided into two separate provinces, called Upper and Lower, with distinct legislatures. In 1840 a re-union of these provinces was effected, and the respective designations of Upper and Lower Canada were changed to Canada West and Canada East. This governmental experiment was the result of the rebellion of 1837, and had for its object the suppression of French dominancy, which, as early as 1820 in Lower Canada, and 1834 in Upper Canada, had become troublesome to the government; but the change has not consummated its object, nor has the change of nomenclature obliterated the ancient landmarks. The liberal measures propounded by the imperial government of late years have, however, had a very beneficial effect on the political and social condition of the people, and have done more than all other measures to allay the exasperation of the different nationalities by which the country is inhabited. Its progress during the last ten years, as exhibited by a comparison of official returns, has been highly encouraging.